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LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and above-mentioned statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic finds it necessary to register a strong protest because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Armenian Republic and its missions abroad, in particular the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, is flagrantly violating the generally accepted norms of intergovernmental relations and the principles and rules of international organizations by disseminating statements and appeals conducted in Erevan in the name of a non-existent "Nagorny Karabakh Republic".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan expresses concern and indignation at a statement which the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations circulated on 23 July in the name of one K. Barburian, who has proclaimed himself "President of the Presidium of the Parliament of Nagorny Karabakh". As in the case of all other documents circulated by the Republic of Armenia, it is aimed at disinforming the international community and the United Nations together with its authoritative organ, the Security Council.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan hopes that the United Nations and the Security Council will respond appropriately to such "diplomatic" practice by Erevan, which abuses the good offices of the United Nations Secretariat. At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan considers it necessary to reveal the real situation and to draw the international community's attention to the patent contradiction between the true facts and the Armenian insinuations.

One has only to compare the dates of communications from the Armenian side concerning offensive military operations on the eastern frontiers of the "Nagorny Karabakh Republic" allegedly conducted by Azerbaijan with actual events on those dates in order to discover the full dimension of the falsity of Armenian propaganda. The same is true of May 1992, when Shusha and Lachin districts in the Azerbaijani Republic were captured, while the Armenian mass media loudly proclaimed that the security of the "peaceful" population of Hankendi was threatened. It is true also of December 1992, when Armenian armed forces invaded the Zangelan, Kubatly and Djebrail districts of Azerbaijan and occupied 15 villages, yet Armenia appealed to the international community to bring to a halt the Azerbaijani attack on the Goris district of Armenia. It is true also of March 1993, when the Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan was occupied, while Erevan persisted in trying to convince the entire world that the conflict had been escalated by the Azerbaijani side. With a singular lack of originality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia is continuing in the same vein. From 12 June onwards, communications from Erevan concerning the alleged attack on Askeran being prepared by Azerbaijan have been circulated. Some time later, and this now is reality, Armenian armed forces waged a large-scale attack on the Agdam district of Azerbaijan, which affected 123 settlements and 178,000 inhabitants, including 20,000 refugees from other occupied districts of Azerbaijan. In the course of this attack, the city of Agdam and 49 villages

were occupied and some 200,000 civilians were killed and wounded. The number of refugees totalled 160,000. The 2nd Army Corps of the Armenian army and additional forces transferred from Armenia and occupied Kelbajar took part in the assault on Agdam.

Such are the actual events requiring due appraisal by the United Nations Security Council and a suitable response.